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The future of arts

Will art education change with a new president?

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The 2016 Presidential Election has crept up on all of us pretty quickly, and it is our jobs as citizens not only to get out and vote but also to be well informed. For many Winthrop students i, the candidates' stance on an arts education is an important issue.

Adam Caratenuto / The Johnsonian

Sierra Hyer, a junior art major, working on her mug series.

Hillary Clinton

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton believes in an arts education and that investing in arts is investing in the future of our children.

Clinton made the point that standardized testing in our schools is too much of the focus. She believes that standardized tests are a great diagnostic for our educators but that they have taken over and changed how we are teaching in our schools.

Clinton believes that arts education in the lives of children can be transformative.

Clinton's Background in the Arts

Clinton's background in the arts is quite extensive. In 1999 she won the Americans for the Arts Award for Arts Advocacy. She has also published two books and received a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album for her audio recording of her book "It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us."

Donald Trump

Republican Nominee Donald Trump believes in and supports a well-rounded education.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Trump said, "Critical thinking skills, the ability to read, write and do basic math are still the keys to economic success. A holistic education that includes literature and the arts is just as critical to creating good citizens."

Trump's Contributions to the Arts

Trump hosted the reality shows "The Apprentice" and "The Celebrity Apprentice" for a combined 14 seasons, published 16 books on financial advice and flirted briefly with attending film school at the University of Southern California.

Gary Johnson

Libertarian nominee Gary Johnson does not have a stance on arts education or has not made one apparent in the press.

Johnson does believe local and state governments should have much more control over education policies.

He also believes in getting rid of the federal Department of Education as well as Common Core because they were "costly and overly bureaucratic and compromise our ability to provide our children with a good education."

Jill Stein

Green Party nominee Jill Stein wants to restore arts, music and recreation to school curriculums.

Stein also does not support Common Core education.

"OnTheIssues.org" quoted her as saying, "We need to teach multidimensionality and make schools relevant, using the arts, engaging the community, and more.

Stein's Background in the Arts

Prior to politics Stein was a physician after graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1979. As a physician Stein served on Boston's chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Stein also has recorded musical albums, playing the conga, djembe drums and guitar.

In the 1990s and the 2000s she released four studio albums collaborating with Ken Selcer in the folk-rock band Somebody's Sister.

Most of the songs on these albums focus on issues Stein emphasizes now in her political career such as peace, justice and climate action.

Educational enemies

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This election year has brought diverse candidates to the forefront, all with very different approaches to solving national issues. One of these issues is education.

The Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, believes that schools and teachers are under funded and under supported.

To solve this, Clinton's program focuses on modernizing America's schools and increasing the support schools and teachers receive:

·Clinton aims to launch a national program to better the pay and support teachers receive, as well as preparing them better for their roles as educators

·Clinton wants to increase the presence of computer science in the American school system. She plans, if elected, to provide more funding to states to provide programs in computer science as she believes the increase in jobs in this field requires more students trained in its workings

·Clinton plans to build on the Build America Bonds program, a program instituted by President Obama in order to stimulate the economy and create jobs, to provide the money for cities to build up schools that are beginning to fall apart. Clinton hopes her "Modernize Every School Bonds" will modernize schools and provide things such as better labs and wifi

·Clinton believes that some schools can serve as "school to prison pipelines" that greatly effect African American students. Clinton hopes to provide money to schools in order to reform their disciplinary policies and for states to use social and emotional interventions instead of heavy disciplinary actions

The Republican candidate's plan differs considerably. Donald Trump's ideas about education focus on student choice of school.

·Trump believes that the key to a better education for students lies in the ability for students to choose where they go to learn

·Trump wants to re-prioritize 20 Billion of existing federal dollars to go towards school choice. Trump wants to give school choice to every one of the "11 million school aged children living in property"

·Trump, if president, would work with congress to provide reforms for places of higher education that would allow them to receive tax breaks and extra money in exchange for efforts to lower attendance costs and student debt

·Trump wants to make it easier for students to enter a place of higher learning, two and four colleges as well as trade schools and technical schools, and for the experience to be cheaper for these students.

Two major third party candidates have also outlined their views.

Libertarian Gary Johnson is a proponent of school choice, believing that competition between schools will better their overall conditions.

·Johnson believes that education should be handled at the local level, with states making decisions about what their students are learning

·Elimination of the Federal department of education

·Reform and improvement among all schools in order to make them more advanced.

Green Party candidate Jill Stein promotes heavy changes for America's school system these include:

·Free education from pre-school to university

·Abolish student debt

·No privatization of school

·Restorative justice instead if heavy punishments in school

·Evaluate teachers with their peers

·Curriculum developed by teachers with input from parents and community leaders with hopes for less importance of high stakes tests

·Better pay and benefits for teachers, fight the effects of poverty and racism in schools

While the candidates may have their plans outlined, it does not mean that they have reached the public.

Levi Siniard, a junior middle-level education major, believes that the candidates were not vocal enough on this issue.

"Their focus has been largely economics, I've heard very little about education this election season." Siniard said.

To him, it seems that "...education is the least thing they want, it's pretty sad."

Annie Ellison, junior early childhood education major, had the same problem as Siniard.

"I feel like neither candidate has adequately discussed these issues."

Ellison had to do research herself in order to find out what the candidates believed, which she found strange considering the importance of this topic on the nation's future. However, after research, Ellison found Clinton's policy more applicable.

"I have to admit that, as an early childhood education major, Clinton's education policy speaks most to me. She hopes to ensure opportunities for all children to attend high quality preschool programs, this aligns perfectly with my personal interests"

All the candidates would likely find support for their education plans, if they made their ideas heard.